

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

The Public owns the broadcast bands and it is in the public interest not to hand over control to the media to do programming in their own or the government's interest. No control on cable ownership (no caps) or on broadcast/newspaper (cross-ownership rule) CREATES A MONOPOLY by broadcasters as to what information is made available to the public and invites media and government to collaborate jointly in their best interests and become a propaganda machine instead of an independent news provider. Such is not possible due to Secretary Powell and recent court decisions acting in the 'best interest's' of the media and the government and against the best interests of the people. In case it has escaped you, the above pattern serves to eliminate the possibility of the development or preservation of a truly representative republic, commonly called a democracy. Big business and big government then can 'use' the people to further their own agenda and this country, as set up according our !

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reedoms for the populace will no longer exist and the United States of America WILL HAVE EFFECTIVELY BEEN DESTROYED. If you are part of the 'power structure' and are willing to live in a DICTATORSHIP run by private interests, you will let one or two media giants narrow the 'news' to government propaganda. You will also have provided media with the opportunity to charge any price they want as there will be no competition. Cable prices have already risen three times as fast as the cost of living has increased.

If you are for the welfare of the People and the United States as a viable 'free' country you will sustain the cable ownership cap and the broadcast/newspaper cross-ownership rule, and maybe add more limitations to protect the public from 'power grabs.'